

# Routine COVID-19 testing in long-term care facilities

## What you need to know about state testing requirements

Oregon requires staff in all licensed nursing, assisted living and residential care facilities to undergo routine COVID-19 testing as of November 1, 2020.

### Who is included?

All part-time and full-time staff as well as individuals who are involved in resident care and support. This includes volunteers; hospice personnel; contractors that provide services such as housekeeping, laundry, meal preparation; and, students performing on-the-job training.

### How often will tests be conducted?

It depends on the community where the facility is located. If there are many COVID-19 cases in the surrounding community, creating a high risk, tests may be conducted as often as once or twice a week. In areas where the risk is low, the frequency will be once a month.

### Who will give the test and who pays for it?

These decisions are up to each long-term care facility as well as outside contractors who employ people who provide services to a facility.

### How fast will staff get results?

Requirements call for test results to be received within 48 hours.

### Can a staff member decline?

Exceptions will be made for some medical reasons.

### What about residents?

All new residents must be offered a test when moving in. In addition, residents will be tested in the event of an outbreak where they live.

## Who receives the test results?

Employers will be informed of staff test results but must keep this information confidential. Test result data reported by facilities to the state will not include personal or identifying information.

## What protections are in place to ensure staff members who test positive won't be penalized at work?

State employment laws protect workers. Employees who believe that they are being treated unfairly can seek help from the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) at [help@boli.state.or.us](mailto:help@boli.state.or.us) or 971-673-0761.

## Will residents be told if staff test positive where they live?

All long-term care facilities where either a staff member or a resident has a case of COVID-19, or a suspected case, must report that information to Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS), which produces lists of facilities with cases on its [website](#). In addition, facilities must post signs at all entrances and exits.

## Why is the state adding this requirement to long-term care facilities now?

COVID-19 can have life threatening consequences for older adults and individuals with underlying health conditions. Staff who work in long-term care facilities can unknowingly carry the virus after getting exposed outside of work. Testing will help prevent individuals who don't have symptoms from putting others at risk. Ongoing tests of long-term care staff is part of a bigger statewide effort to use COVID-19 testing to contain spread of the virus while also reopening Oregon counties during the pandemic.

## Why aren't adult foster homes included?

Adult foster homes don't face the same level of risk as larger facilities.

## Where can staff, residents and family learn more about this requirement?

For more details, please visit this ODHS [webpage](#).



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